

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION****90<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

**PROPOSAL IATTC-90 M-1A****SUBMITTED BY ECUADOR****DRAFT RESOLUTION ON HARVEST CONTROL RULE**

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion its 90th meeting:*

*Aware of its responsibility regarding the scientific study of tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and of adopting conservation and management measures for these resources,*

*Recognising that the sustainability of the resource can be reduced if the increase in fishing effort is considerable, and*

*Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleet fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase, and*

*Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3a of the Code of Conduct for responsible fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organisations should determine the reference levels foreseen for each fish stock and, the measures that must be taken if those levels are exceeded, and*

*Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3b of the Code of Conduct for responsible fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organisations should determine the reference levels set as limits for each fish stock and at the same time, the measures that have to be taken when these levels are exceeded; when a reference level set as a limit is close to being reached, measures should be taken to ensure that that level is not exceeded, and*

*Taking note of the variety of opinions that exist regarding the appropriate objective reference points relating to the level of fishing mortality or the level of biomass that allow the long-term sustainable exploitation of the fish stocks, with the best possible catches; and on appropriate limit reference points related to the maximum values of fishing mortality and the minimum values of biomass, which should not be exceeded, and*

*Recognising that for the fishery for tropical tuna in the Convention zone decision rules based on the precautionary principle will have to be developed to ensure that the management objectives are achieved, including those deriving from the limit and target reference points adopted, and*

*Bearing in mind that on the basis of the best available scientific information and the precautionary principle, the IATTC has used as an operational harvest control rule (HCR) limiting fishing mortality ( $F$ ) at levels that do not exceed the level corresponding to the MSY, and*

*Considering that the Commission during its 87th annual meeting, adopted interim limit and target reference points for yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and*

*Bearing in mind that the IATTC's scientific staff indicates in document SAC-07-07g, that it has not been investigated in depth whether the operational HCR currently used, is appropriate with regard to the limit reference points; therefore a more comprehensive management strategy evaluation is necessary to*

evaluate the HCR; and alternative HCRs should be considered that include hard and soft limit reference points, that use reference points based on biomass, and that establish well-defined scientific management recommendations in the case that the reference points are exceeded.

*Resolves as follows:*

1. The recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff on conservation measures for the stocks of yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tunas, shall take as their technical basis the limit and target reference points adopted provisionally.
2. The harvest control rule (HCR) recommended by the scientific staff for the purse-seine fishery for tropical tunas shall be adopted, in accordance with the following principles:
  - a. The scientific recommendations for establishing management measures in the fisheries for tropical tunas, such as closures, which can be established for multiple years, shall attempt to prevent the fishing mortality rate ( $F$ ) from exceeding the best estimate of the rate corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield ( $F_{MSY}$ ) for the species that requires the strictest management.
  - b. If the probability that  $F$  will exceed the limit reference point ( $F_{limit}$ ) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of reducing  $F$  to the target level ( $F_{MSY}$ ) or less, and a probability of less than 10% that  $F$  will exceed  $F_{limit}$ .
  - c. If the probability that the spawning biomass ( $S$ ) is below the limit reference point ( $S_{limit}$ ) is greater than 10%, as soon as is practical management measures shall be established that have a probability of at least 50% of restoring  $S$  to the target level (dynamic  $S_{MSY}$ ) or greater, and a probability of less than 10% that  $S$  will descend to below  $S_{limit}$  in a period of two generations of the stock or five years, whichever is greater.
  - d. For fisheries that use gears other than purse-seine nets, the recommendations by the IATTC scientific staff on additional management measures shall be as consistent as possible with those adopted for the purse-seine fishery, while taking account of the impact of those fisheries on the species compared with that of purse-seine fishery.
3. The scientific staff of the Commission shall carry out additional assessments of these HCRs and alternatives, which shall be presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee for examination in order to allow the Commission to adopt a permanent HCR.
4. The IATTC shall continue to promote, encourage, and insist on compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC in their objectives and efficacy with regard to the tropical tuna stocks.
5. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the Secretariat of the WCPFC.